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PUNCHLINE:

THE GOTHAM GAME





DAWN OF DC ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN JON KENT

THE NEXT CHAPTER IN
THE SAGA OF THE
SUPER SON LEADS TO...
INJUSTICE

#1

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Written by
**TOM
TAYLOR**

Art by
CLAYTON

A new
6-issue
series
March

FORGING THE FUTURE

ALLEYTOWN. THE SMOLDERING RUINS OF ACE CHEMICALS.

"THIS IS ASSISTANT D.A.
VENTURA FREMONT...
SPEAKING OFF THE
RECORD, OF COURSE..."

...AND **DEFINITELY** NOT INCRIMINATING
HERSELF BY TRESPASSING ON
A CRIME SCENE.

THE BUREAU HAS
COMPLETED ITS CURSORY
INVESTIGATION, BUT BETWEEN THEIR
FINDINGS AND **SELINA KYLE'S**
SWORN CONFESSION, SOMETHING
JUST **ISN'T** ADDING UP...

ALEXIS KAYE, A.K.A. **PUNCHLINE**, SEEMS
TO HAVE TAKEN THE NOTORIETY SHE GAINED
FROM HER TRIAL TO CULTIVATE INFLUENCE WITH
THE **ROYAL FLUSH GANG**, WHO HAVE BEEN
HELPING HER PUSH HER LATEST DESIGNER
DRUG ONTO THE GRAY MARKET.

AND
SO, AS IS OFTEN
THE CASE WHEN THE
SYSTEM FAILS, ONE OF
GOTHAM'S CITIZENS
CHOSE TO TAKE
MATTERS INTO HER
OWN HANDS.

HERE'S WHAT
STICKS IN MY CRAW...
SELINA KYLE IS A
KNOWN ELEMENT IN
ALLEYTOWN...

I **REFUSE**
TO
BELIEVE SHE WOULD
PURPOSEFULLY OR EVEN
NEGLIGENTLY PUT THIS
NEIGHBORHOOD AT
RISK!



THE
MELTING OF THE
BEAMS CERTAINLY LINES
UP WITH AN EXTRA-HOT
CHEMICAL FIRE.

BUT THE
VIOLENT WARPING
AND BENDING OF THE
STRUCTURE SUGGESTS SOME
SORT OF EXPLOSIVE
BLAST...AND A VERY
POWERFUL ONE AT
THAT.



ONE
THAT **LITERALLY**
BLEW THE ROOF
OFF OF THE
PLACE...

...SPREADING
CONTAMINATED
DEBRIS AND
CHEMICAL FALLOUT
AROUND FOR
BLOCKS.



ACCORDING
TO THE ARSON
INVESTIGATOR'S REPORT,
EVERY INDUSTRIAL FAIL-SAFE
AND AUTOMATED DETERRENT
HAD BEEN **SABOTAGED**,
AND THE FIRE BURNED
FOR OVER **SEVEN**
HOURS.



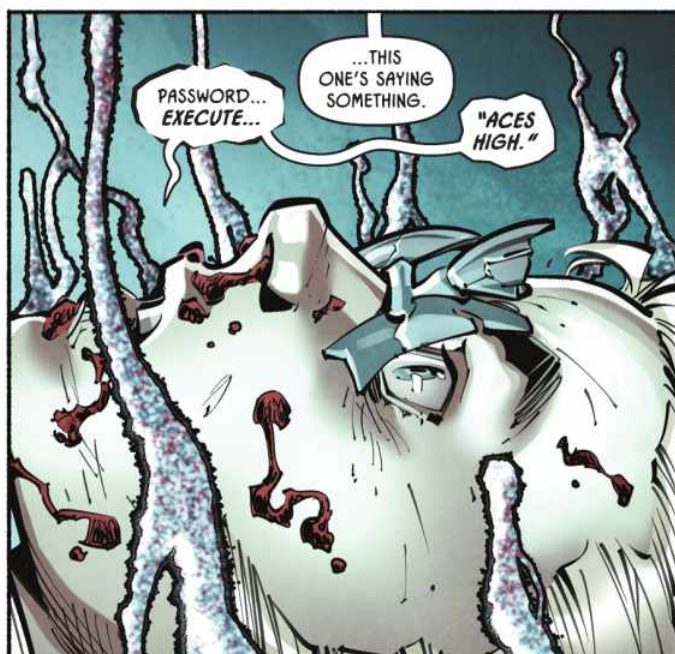
BUT WHAT IF THE
SAFEGUARDS WERE
NEVER ACTIVATED
AT ALL?

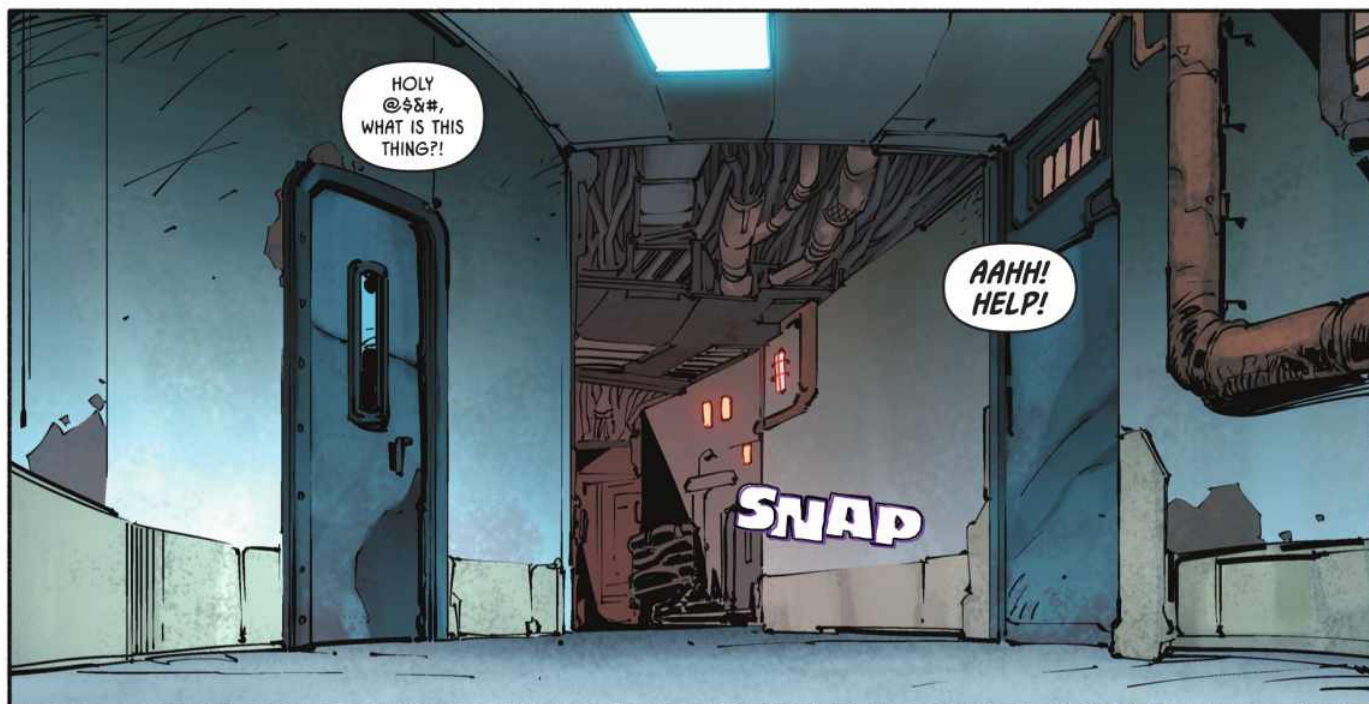




**PUNCHLINE:
THE
GOTHAM
GAME
PART 5**

TINI HOWARD & BLAKE HOWARD WRITERS
GLEB MELNIKOV ARTIST LUIS GUERRERO COLORS
BECCA CAREY LETTERS GLEB MELNIKOV COVER
DERRICK CHEW, SERG AGUÑA
& CRYSTAL KING VARIANT COVERS
DAVE WIELGOSZ EDITOR
BEN ABERNATHY GROUP EDITOR









SERIOUSLY?!
HOW THE #\$%&@
AM I SUPPOSED
TO KNOW?! THIS
IS YOUR
HIDEOUT!



IT'S A SATURATED
MARKET! I WAS TRYING TO
BUILD A FAN BASE!



ROYAL
FLUSHES...
ALWAYS SO
FUN TO BEAT
UP.



GOOD THING
THEY OPT FOR
QUANTITY OVER
QUALITY...



OF COURSE I
CAME, YOU BIG
IDIOT!

TRUST
ME... I
FEEL LIKE
ONE.

WHAT?
WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?

HARP--ERR--
BLUEBIRD! THANK
GOD, YOU
CAME!

WAAAAHHHHH

IT'S
BLUFF... I KNOW,
I SHOULDN'T HAVE
BEEN SPEAKING WITH
HIM...

NO
MORE OF THAT,
CULLEN ROW! HE IS
THE ONE AT FAULT,
NOT YOU!

NOT FOR
NOTHIN', WE BETTER
VAMOOSSE BEFORE
JACK-O HERE
COMES TO.

BETTER
STAY
CLOSE.

SOUNDS
LIKE IT'S
GETTING PRETTY
HAIRY OUT
THERE!

BUDDA BUDDA
CRASH BUDDA
SMASH

CULLEN,
ARE YOU OKAY
TO WALK?

YEAH!
I'M JUST FINE.
LET'S GO!

"PASSWORD...
EXECUTE..."

"ACES
HIGH."









NOW,
LET'S SHOW THESE
POSEURS WHY YOU
DON'T @&!# WITH THE
**ROYAL FLUSH
GANG!**



WHO CARES
HOW MANY
DUMMIES DEY
GOT?!

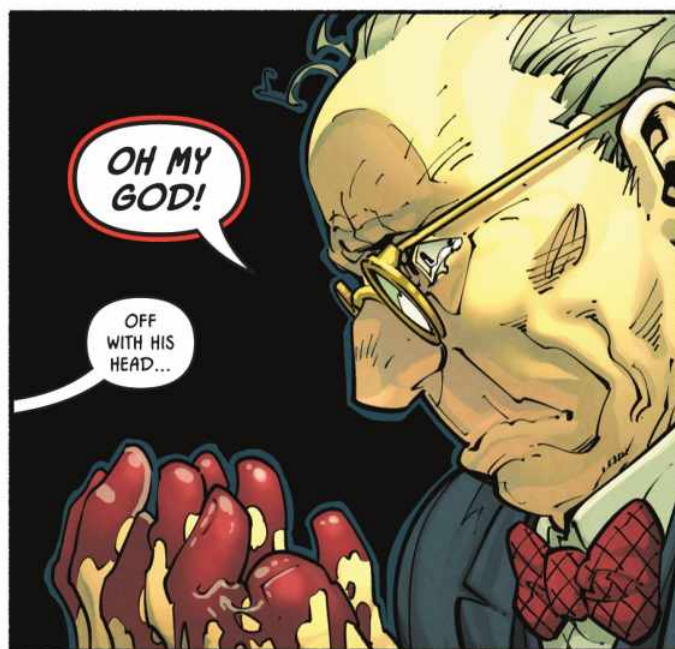
WASTE
'EM ALL!

NOBODY
CALLS ME A
DUMMY...



...AND
LIVES TO TELL
ABOUT IT!

CRUNCH



OH MY
GOD!

OFF
WITH HIS
HEAD...



HYYYYYAAAAH!

SIONIS!
GET US OUT
OF HERE!

BOOM

MEANWHILE...
PORT ROYAL...



"IT'S A REAL
BLOODBATH OUT
THERE!"







WAIT A
MINUTE...
NANOTECH!



GOOD THING
ONE OF THE FIRST
TOOLS I EVER
CREATED...

...WAS AN
ANTI-NANOBOT
FIELD!*



*IT'S TRUE, BLUEBIRD CREATED
THIS ALL THE WAY BACK IN *BATMAN
& ROBIN ETERNAL* #26 --DAVE

THUD

OW!

HURRY! THE
MINUTE WE LEAVE
THE AREA, THEY'LL
BEGIN TO
RE-FORM!

THEN LET'S
GET YOU BOTH
BACK TO THE
HARDWARE!

WOW...

YOU'RE REALLY
POURED INTO THAT
COSTUME, AREN'T YA,
NIGHTWING?

"WE'RE GOING BACK
TO PORT ROYAL!"







ONE OF THE
MANY ALLEYS
OF ALLEYTOWN.

"SHE
CAN HANDLE
HERSELF."

SKREEKEE
SKREEKEE
SKREEKEE
SKREEKEE



SKREEKEE
SKREEKEE
SKREEKEE



SITTIN' BY THE
ROADSIDE...



...ON A
SUMMER'S
DAY...



SOMETHIN'-
SOMETHIN'-
SOMETHIN'...
PASSIN'
TIME AWAY...



LYING IN THE
SHADOWS...UNDERNEATH
THE TREES!

RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE



GOODNESS,
GRACIOUS!
HOW
DELICIOUS!
EATIN'
GOOBER
PEAS!

KLUNK



TO BE



**Why won't Batman
save the world?**

The last of
eight 64-page
Prestige format
specials starring
the Dark Knight's
worst enemies
in their best
stories yet.

**BATMAN
ONE BAD DAY
RA'S AL GHUL #1
TOM TAYLOR
IVAN REIS**



DAWN OF DC

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

HARLEY QUINN

How is this new era of *Harley Quinn* different from what we've seen from the character in the past?

This is going to be—at least at the start—a character piece first and foremost. We'll be exploring a bit of Harley's rich...inner life, let's say. We're trying to see how she approaches the kind of lovely normalcy lots of heroes aspire to: an apartment with her girlfriend, Ivy, her pets, a (court-ordered) job... more on that later. [Laughs]



Which aspects of Harley are you looking to explore at the start? Just by the very nature of the character, she lends herself to a wide variety of stories (and storytelling).

When you're mentally ill like Harley (or me—let's get that out of the way), there's a level of self-sabotage that can feel *cosmically* hard to overcome.

It's a struggle that I've always wanted to write about, and Harley just reminds me of one of my favorite ways to overcome a struggle: by laughing about it. I think a Harley book should be laugh-out-loud funny in a way that maybe sometimes makes you say "ow."



What kind of journey is Harley on in this opening arc?

Well, when I landed on "Girl in a Crisis" as a title it sort of wrapped it in a bow for us. She's trying to find what normalcy is for her, and what it'll take to get there.

AN INTERVIEW WITH TINI HOWARD

Harley enters the Dawn of DC era in *Harley Quinn* #28 from writer Tini Howard and artist Sweeney Boo, ushering in a new status quo for the title character when a fight with Two-Face leads to a new (legally mandated) gig. Plus, each issue features a backup story, as a revolving cast of all-star talent presents Harley's wild—and in-continuity!—dreams.

What's most exciting about collaborating with Sweeney Boo on this series?

Oh my god, what's not? Sweeney is turning in truly beautiful pages. There's something so confident and fully realized in all of her panels—it really gives me the chance to go nuts. Bright, beautiful, kinetic, real, but also just leaning into the *Looney Tunes* madness of a Harley Quinn comic. I'm having the best time with Sweeney!

I gotta also tease: the backups for this book are *incredible*. Some real modern legends in the mix, doing super cool work.



**DON'T MISS
HARLEY QUINN #28,
ON SALE IN MARCH!**

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